

Remarks And Argument

Applicants note with appreciation the paragraphs of the outstanding actions (paragraph 8 of the original action and paragraph 11 of the supplemental action) stating that claims 46-49 and 51 have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, claim 15 has been amended to present the subject matter of claim 46 in independent form, claims 41-44 and 47 have been amended to depend from claim 15 or other claims dependent from it and claims 16, 40, 45 and 46 have been cancelled, without prejudice to primary backings previously claimed being pursued in a separate application. Claims 48, 49 and 51 have been retained in the form previously presented. Claims 41-44, while not included among the claims deemed allowable according to the outstanding action, incorporate the limitations of claim 46 through their ultimate dependency from claim 15 and, therefore, are likewise allowable.

Claims 41-44 having been amended to claim additional features of the secondary carpet backings according to claim 15 and other of its dependent claims instead of the primary carpet backings previously claimed therein, support for the amendments made herein with specific reference to secondary carpet backings is reviewed briefly below.

Amended claim 41, directed to secondary backings with a supporting fabric woven from polypropylene yarns, is supported at page 14 lines 19-32 describing secondary backings and specifically identifying polypropylene as a preferred material therefor. Claim 48 and the examples at pages 20-21 describe secondary backing fabrics with polypropylene warp and weft yarns.

Amended claims 42 and 43, directed to secondary backing fabrics with spunbonded and self-bonded fabrics, respectively, are supported at page 11 line 19 to page 12 line 9, describing the self-bonded and spunbonded fabrics, and at 12 line 33 to page 13 line 15 with respect to carpet backings with such fabrics and a traditional secondary backing. Example 30 describes a secondary backing fabric with a self-bonded fabric needled to a woven secondary backing.

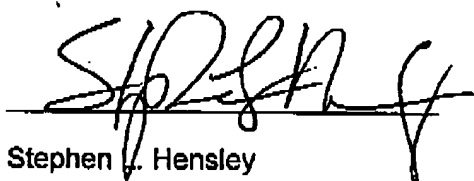
Amended claim 44, directed to secondary backing fabrics in which the substantially continuous filaments of the nonwoven adhesive fabric melt at least 20°C below the yarns of the supporting fabric, is supported generally at page 10 lines 11-22, describing adhesive fabrics made from thermoplastic resins with such melting characteristics, and specifically in Example 30, in which the woven supporting fabric was a 16 x 5 weave of polypropylene yarns and the nonwoven fabric was a self-bonded, continuous filament fabric made from a linear low density polyethylene identified as Aspun 6806, which is described at page 10 lines 22-37 as a preferred material for adhesive fabrics because of its melting behavior.

In view of the above, the amended claims presented herein are fully supported in the description and do not constitute new matter.

With the amendments made herein, all claims pending in this application are allowable over the art of record for reasons discussed in Applicants' amendment filed February 18, 2004, and acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action and Supplemental Office Action. The rejections of claims 15, 16, 40-45 according to the outstanding actions are not discussed in this paper because those claims have been either cancelled or amended to incorporate subject matter that has been deemed allowable.

In view of the amendments made herein and the preceding remarks, the subject application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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